

Spark Gap

Vol. 29, Issue 12, December 2012 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for twenty-nine years*

On Our MARC...

Season's Greetings!

Santa has made an early visit to the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club this year, dropping off a new Kenwood 751 repeater. And much like that jolly old elf himself, it has a booming voice that can be heard in Johnson and surrounding counties. Many thanks to Steve³ (N9LC, K9DY, AF9SE) along with Jack (W8ISH), and Ron (W9TEJ) for their expert installation work. While there is still some tweaking to do and a southern link to get in place, WA9RDF has never sounded better. If you have not had a chance to try it out yet, we hope to hear you on the air soon!

Saturday, Dec. 15th at 8:00 a.m., we will have our annual Christmas Breakfast and club meeting. Rumor has it that a certain, now-famous, casserole will be making an appearance along with some other goodies guaranteed to broaden our belt lines. For your viewing pleasure we will also get a chance to see the premier of the MARC year-in-review video from Parker Productions. We hope that you will be able to join us.

Just a reminder that Dec. 31st marks the end of our membership year. It is time for all of us to renew our dues and support our club. At \$18 per year, a MARC membership is one of the best deals around. As was discussed at our October meeting, we hope that you will also consider making an additional contribution to help defray the cost of the new repeater. Remember we are a 501c3 organization.

May your holiday season be filled with the joy of family and friends, rest and relaxation, and peace. May good health and prosperity be yours in the year ahead.

Bob - KC9NJM
President



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR 2013

M.A.R.C. One-Day Technician License Class

This may be a bit early but I wanted to bring everyone up to speed on our plans to sponsor a one-day Technician License Class on **Saturday February 9, 2013**. If you know of someone who is interested in taking the class refer them to secretary@midstatehams.org.

Seating will be limited to 25 students so they should register early to insure a spot. We require all students to purchase the Technician Class License Manual, Second Edition. <http://www.arrl.org/shop/Ham-Radio-License-Manual-Revised-2nd-Edition/?page=1>

The class will be nine hours of instruction with testing to follow. The class begins promptly at 8AM in our meeting room at the Johnson County EOC.

Thanks for your help in passing the word.

Jack W8ISH
Class coordinator

Top 10 Emergency Preparedness Gifts Great holiday ideas that show you care

COLUMBUS, OH - Many of us struggle with finding just the right gifts for our friends and loved ones during the holidays. Ready Ohio has some great gift ideas that not only help others get ready for emergency situations, but that also say you care and you want them to be safe.

Here is our Ready Ohio Top 10 List:

1. Emergency Weather Radio

A NOAA weather radio is like having your own emergency siren in your home. It is one of the best ways to protect your family in the case of a disaster. Emergency radios are a 24-hour source of weather forecasts, watches, warnings and other emergency information. You can purchase emergency radios for around \$30 at most electronic stores, hardware stores and even neighborhood drug stores.

2. Winter Weather Survival Kit

Everyone should carry a winter survival kit in their vehicle. In an emergency it could save your life and the lives of your passengers. It should include:

- Windshield scraper and small broom
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Shovel

- Water
- Snack food including energy bars and raisins
- Matches and small candles
- Extra hats, socks and mittens
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Blankets or sleeping bag
- Road salt, sand or cat litter for traction
- Booster cables
- Emergency flares and reflectors
- Fluorescent distress flag and a whistle to attract attention

You can make your own kit or purchase kits at hardware stores and online retailers. And remember, each of these items make a great "stocking stuffer".

3. Cell Phone Adapter

"Murphy's Law".the moment you need to use your cell phone to make an emergency call is the moment you have no power left in your battery. Giving someone a cell phone adapter to plug into a car lighter is a great way to say you care.

4. Home Emergency Kit

In an emergency, basic services (electricity, gas, water, etc.) may be cut off for days or even weeks. You may be stuck in your home during that time or evacuated at a moment's notice. You probably won't have time to shop or search for the supplies you need. That's why it is important to have your own fully-stocked disaster kit ready. The kit should include items like:

- . Water
- . Non-perishable food that doesn't need electricity for storage or preparation
- . Flashlights with extra batteries
- . First aid kit
- . Pet supplies

5. Enrollment in a CPR or First-Aid Class

Call your local American Red Cross or American Heart Association chapter to find a class near you or your loved ones.

6. Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Many people know that smoke detectors save lives in a fire. But did you know that carbon monoxides can save you from the "silent killer". Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that can be generated by improper ventilation of furnaces, generators and other devices. According to the Centers for Disease Control, carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States, with more than 20,000 people visiting the emergency room and nearly 500 killed each year from overexposure to the gas.

7. Fire extinguishers

Give one for the kitchen, another for the garage, a third to keep in your car.

8. Foldable ladder

Keep near a second-story window for quick escape in a fire

9. Pet Disaster Kits

Your pets will need food and water in a disaster just like you. Leashes and a carrying case or crate for safer transportation and housing during a disaster is also a good idea.

10. Battery Powered Lamps

Not only great for camping but perfect in an emergency when the power goes out and you need a lot of light.

And one more idea! As you gather with family and friends this holiday take a few minutes to discuss what they will do in the case of an emergency or disaster. This includes developing a simple family communications plan and identifying how you would get in touch with loved ones and where you might meet if you are separated when an emergency or disaster takes place.

For more information visit www.ready.ohio.gov <<http://list.em.ohio.gov/t/211988/6574154/30/0/>> . From everyone here at ReadyOhio and Ohio Emergency Management Agency, we hope you have a safe and happy holiday season.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Please renew your membership to M.A.R.C. for 2013

See Jacki KI6QOG at the next club meeting and she will be glad to help you renew your membership. Your membership is very important to us.

Kenwood Repeater Installation 12/7/2012

The first thing you might notice is clear, crisp audio relayed over the new Kenwood 751 repeater. Following a unanimous vote to purchase a new repeater our tech committee quickly moved to purchase and install the new one piece system.

The repeater change out occurred Saturday morning November 24, 2012. With enough coffee, biscuits and gravy to last the morning, our crew tackled the job of untangling and unwiring the old repeater. Newly elected repeater trustee Steve Brown, N9LC, aided by Steve Ellis, AF9SE, proceeded to pull the old equipment out of the rack. Club President Bob Jones, KC9NJM, jumped at the opportunity to unpack the new rig, making it ready for the install.

In the meantime, Steve Carmean, K9DY and Jack Parker, W8ISH, began making last minute tweaks to the repeater programming. They designed the basic setup of Morse code ID, squelch tail, courtesy tone and other features that give the repeater it's own personality. The voice ID's have been put on hold until other fine tuning is done.

Ron Koons, W9TEO, checked for SWR and power output before throwing the switch to put the new repeater on the air.

At 12:30PM, November 24th, our Kenwood model 751 made it debut on the Johnson county airwaves.

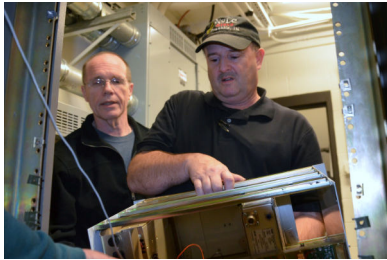
Early reports indicate better speech recognition, wider coverage area and slightly increased reception sensitivity.

Our thanks to Jay Chrisman, AA9YP, for piecing together enough Motorola equipment over the years to keep our club repeater going. Jay left his personal equipment on-line until we were able to purchase and install a newer system.

The Franklin Link is high on the priority list and should be working in January.

-w8ish

Kenwood Repeater Installation



Brown pulls out old repeater



Bob handles repeater



Brown holds new repeater



Carmean and Parker program radio 2

Great job on the installation and set up of the new repeater..... it sounds and works great.

..... Ed.





N0D - - Special Event Station celebrating The End of the world!

That's right, the end is finally near. According to one of the three Mayan Calendars, the End of the world will occur on Dec 21, 2012. To celebrate this literally once in a lifetime event, Special Event Station N0D (Now Zero Days) will be activated on 10-80 meters and on several satellite passes for three days during and after(?) the end of the world. December 20; is a celebration of the end of the world. December 21, the day of destruction, we will be on the air as long as possible. December 22nd, that is a little iffy right now.

Amateur radio stations around the crumbling globe are invited to contact N0D, who will be operating from a secret, undisclosed location. Our operating schedule may be a little erratic as destruction rains down upon us and as long as our antennas hold out. Those of you who may be looking skyward for the end of the world, N0D will be operating on several satellite passes.

This will provide cosmic, maybe even intergalactic coverage for the end of the world as we know it.

Thanks to Allen, our Doomsday press release has been picked up by the Amsat News Service and will be carried in a future bulletin in about a week or so.

You can celebrate Doomsday by contacting N0D directly on the air. Amateurs can also become an official Doomsday station by registering on our website. You will be given a registration number and the authority to identify yourself as "Official Doomsday Station" followed by your Doomsday number.

QSL with SASE to KK5W. If Doomsday actually does happen, we regret that a QSL will not be possible so hold on to your SASE until the 22nd at least. Check out our website for a preview of the N0D QSL card.

Amateurs can also become an official Doomsday station by registering on our website. You will be given a registration number and the authority to identify yourself as "Official Doomsday Station" followed by your Doomsday number. Official Doomsday stations will receive the Doomsday Station Certificate.

It is not entirely clear exactly how it will happen. Will it be a cataclysmic shift in the earth's magnetic field, Global Warming on steroids, earthquakes, volcanoes floods, global thermonuclear war, meteor collision, the 10 plagues of Egypt UFO invasion who knows ? There are scientists, soothsayers and philosophers on both sides of the question. Either way it will be an event worth remembering.. .or maybe there will be no one left to remember it?

More information is available on the Official N0D website, www.nowzerodays.com

You can also e-mail the N0D team at N0D.Doomsday@gmail.com. Check our website for the latest updates. www.nowzerodays.com

2012& 2013Indiana Hamfests

04/13/2013

Columbus Hamfest

Location: Columbus, IN **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Columbus Amateur Radio Club **Website:** <http://www.carcnet.org>

04/20/2013

North Central Indiana Hamfest

Location: Peru, IN **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Cass County ARC, Miami County ARC, Grant County ARC, & Kokomo ARC **Website:** <http://nci-hamfest.net>



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL Tone

Club Officers:
President: Robert Jones – KC9NJM
Vice President: Jack Parker – W8ISH
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Steve Brown – N9LC

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

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Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

